

**Narcotics and Narcotic Antagonists**

by Francis F Foldes MD,  
Mark Swerdlow MD FFA RCS  
and Ephraim S Siker MD  
American Lecture Series No. 598  
pp xxxviii + 425 \$11.75

*Springfield, Ill.: Charles C Thomas 1964*

'The primary purpose of the authors has been to present . . . the information on narcotics and narcotic antagonists that may be required by the practising anesthesiologist', and in this they have been quite successful, especially as, after presenting facts and techniques, they give their opinion of their importance and attempt to draw conclusions. This is far more useful than leaving the reader wallowing in a sea of facts as some reviews do. Opinion is valuable, always provided the facts on which it is based are presented in addition.

This book will, as the authors hope, be useful to all interested in the use of narcotics, as well as to anaesthetists. Chapter subjects include: Physiology of Pain; Pharmacology of Narcotics and Antagonists; Assessment of Analgesia; Post-operative Pain Relief; Narcotics in Obstetrics; Combination of Narcotics and Tranquilizers; Treatment of Narcotic Intoxication.

For a postgraduate text the glossary of 19 pages is redundant, if not insulting. For example, 'peristalsis: worm-like movement of the alimentary canal . . .'; 'Plasma water: the water content of blood plasma'; and 'morphine: narcotic analgesic'.

D R LAURENCE

**Medical Illustration**

*A Guide for the Doctor-Author and Exhibitor*  
by William E Loechel

pp xiii + 341 illustrated \$14.50

*Springfield, Ill.: Charles C Thomas 1964*

This book is a comprehensive volume which deals with illustration in medicine and covers the whole field of this subject. Since the author is an artist, emphasis is placed upon the art side as against the photographic. Notwithstanding this a satisfactory balance has been struck. The contents include drawing in the theatre and specimen illustration, making the best use of a department of medical illustration, and sections on drawings, paintings, charts, graphs, exhibits and photography. It should be of value to the student and prospective illustrator as well as providing a reference volume for the medical artist as a result of the detail with which it treats many aspects.

The author clearly knows his subject and is enthusiastic. In fact the exuberance of illustration is inclined to be overdone, even in a textbook on illustration. This, together with some of the lengthy explanations, makes the book a little larger than necessary. It is extremely well pro-

duced, as one has come to expect from Charles C Thomas, although the reviewer does not personally like the text divided into columns as in a newspaper. Any prospective doctor-author, particularly if he contemplates writing a book, would be well advised to read this volume before commencing. In general a valuable book to be on the shelves of medical illustrators and to be consulted by doctor-authors.

BRYAN O SCOTT

**Myxedema Coma**

by Luis Leon-Sotomayor MD  
and Cyril Y Bowers MD

pp xii + 91 \$5.75

*Springfield, Ill.: Charles C Thomas 1964*

This little book consists of a review of the published cases of myxedema coma to which the authors add 4 cases from the records of their own hospital. The survey of the literature appears to be complete, and it will therefore be a useful guide for future writers, but it is largely uncritical.

This book is no more than an essay and it would have been better if it had been shorter and more selective. It contains nothing original. There are 41 small pages of review, 15 pages of case reports, one long table and a list of references. For this tiny publication a price of over £2 is grotesque.

D A PYKE

**Mammography**

by Robert L Egan MD

American Lecture Series No. 568

pp xxix + 446 illustrated \$25.50

*Springfield, Ill.: Charles C Thomas 1964*

The part played by mammography in the diagnosis of breast diseases in this country has lagged behind advances made in the United States. The reasons for this are numerous but the relative lack of interest by radiologists as much as surgeons has contributed.

Dr Egan's book will prove an invaluable guide and reference work to radiologists aspiring to learn the technique. The chapters on technique and on the appearances of the normal breast in different physiological states are invaluable, and although the major part of this impressive volume deals with malignancy these two chapters are most important.

The different types of malignant growths of the breast are clearly described and illustrated. The work and effort undertaken in the reproduction of the illustrations in life size has been amply repaid and the clarity of these reproductions points to the success of Dr Egan's radiographic technique.

The statistical results are carefully analysed and the composite studies of a group of radiologists are analysed. The results of reproducibility study are also considered and the place of mammo-